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Dodd's Little Bonfire

Need to Reform Corrupt Practices Act Shown By Burning of Campaign Finance Records

By Drew Pearson

AN INTERESTING little bonfire which took place in Hartford, Conn., on Feb. 15 plays a small part in the Sen. Dodd investigation. It should play a big part in rewriting the laws regarding political contributions.

That date was shortly after expiration of the time politicians were required to preserve records of campaign costs and contributions for the 1964 Senate election in Connecticut. On that day, Democratic friends of Sen. Dodd in the State House burned his campaign records.

When Republican State Chairman A. Searle Pinney sent for the records, they were gone. Fortunately, Jack Anderson had the foresight to make copies of the more important items.

However, the Connecticut bonfire illustrates the fact that records of campaign finances are kept in a slipshod manner in most of the United States, and that one of the most important steps in electing competent public servants without getting them in hock to lobbyists is to reform the Corrupt Practices Act.

President Johnson in his January State of the Union Message promised: "I will submit legislation to revise the present unrealistic restrictions on campaign contributions — to prohibit the endless proliferation of committees, bring local and state committees under the act — to attach strong teeth and severe penalties."

In 1956, when Mr. Johnson was a Senator from Texas, he was urged to do exactly that. The same year, the late Sen. Tom Hennings of Missouri introduced legislation to reform the Corrupt Practices Act and so did the late Sen. Richard Neuberger of Oregon.

Nothing was done then and nothing has been done in the three months since the State of the Union Message.

The biggest item in any candidate's campaign budget is television. Both political parties pay through the nose for TV time and unless they do they may lose the election. This puts a premium both on money and on the stage manner of the candidate.

The importance of television — and its unfairness — was illustrated in Washington State in 1964 when an unknown preacher opposed veteran Sen. Warren Magnuson and almost beat him. Magnuson came to Congress the same year that Lyndon Johnson was elected — 1938. He has done more for his state than any other legislator in its history. But because Magnuson is not an actor and because he has a more ample waistline than his Republican opponent, he almost lost.

Magnuson is now chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, with power to initiate legislation requiring the networks and individual stations to give some free TV time to all candidates on a nonpartisan basis.

Because the air waves belong to the people, and because some big TV stations make as much as 40 per cent profit, it would not seem unfair to pass such a law — but restricting the amount of time so neither side could get ahead by spending more money.

This is one simple step which could be taken immediately to curb the growing burden of testimonial dinners, big contributions and heavy TV expenditures, which have made the job of running for public office such a burden on the candidate and his friends.

Dog Protection

THE PUBLIC doesn't know it, but Minnesota Congressmen have been applying for protection for dogs used for

scelion and laboratory tests.

Rep. W. R. Poage (D-Tex.) introduced an excellent bill requiring laboratories and dealers who handle dogs for medical purposes to keep them in decent cages and treat them humanely.

Supplying dogs to laboratories has become more of an industry than most people realize. Mike Kredowski of Friedensburg, Pa., who operates the Lone Trail Kennels, says he sells 60,000 dogs a year to laboratories.

Kredowski takes good care of his dogs. But some supplying shippers and laboratories do not. One shipper packed 130 dogs into one truck. Many dogs frequently die in laboratories before they can be used for medical purposes.

Despite these facts, three Minnesota Congressmen and one Minnesota Senator have quietly meat-axed one of the most important sections from

Poage's bill. Democratic Reps. Albert Quie, Ancher Nelsen and Alec Olson succeeded in deleting the word "laboratories" from the bill.

In the Senate, Walter Mondale, a liberal Democrat, strangely sided with them. He has not yet succeeded in taking "laboratories" out of the Senate bill, but he has been trying.

The reason is that the University of Minnesota medical school operates large laboratories and its animal cages are most inhumane, according to Christine Stevens of the Society for Animal Protective Legislation.

Note: In the Senate, Don Cole, clerk of the Senate Commerce Committee, appears to be siding with the University of Minnesota. But Democratic Sens. Mike Monroney (Okla.), Phil Hart (Mich.) and Dan Brewster (Md.), with Sen. Hugh Scott (R-Pa.), are putting up a battle for dogs.

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Warren has a sense of humor. Leonard Marks, Administrator of the United States Information Agency, sent Warren Arabic and English versions of his article on "International Cooperation for Peace Under Law." The Chief Justice replied: "I have proofread the article carefully, and while you have quoted me correctly, I found a misspelled word, but I have forgotten which one it was."

Boston, the home of Paul Revere, and Philadelphia, the home of Betsy Ross, are competing for the privilege of staging our Nation's bicentennial in 1976. As a foretaste of what Philadelphia can offer, Catherine Lawrence and women of the Cherry Hill section of Philadelphia have been displaying exact duplicates of colonial costumes.

Rep. Adam Clayton Powell of Harlem is rewriting the Antipoverty Program with a view to purging the radical antipoverty demonstrators who embarrassed and booted Sargent Shriver.

Kansas Rep. Robert Ellsworth has laid it on the line in a letter to his fellow Kansas Republican, Sen. Jim Pearson — that the Senate Ethics Committee must do a thorough job of probing the charges against Sen. Tom Dodd. Pearson is a member

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